

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 975

By Hill

A RESOLUTION designating June 18, 2008, as "Thomas Hovatter Lymphedema Awareness Day" in Tennessee

WHEREAS, the members of this elected body are desirous to recognize an honorable Tennessean who lost his life to a disease which demands greater study and specialization; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Hovatter, a resident of Johnson City, recently died as a result of complications of lymphedema, a disease which is focused on by no medical specialty and which has no specific test for diagnosis; and

WHEREAS, it is believed that Mr. Hovatter succumbed to this rarely fatal disease simply because he lived in an area of the State which rates poorly in the treatment of lymphedema, a disease resulting from the failure of the lymphatic system and which arises from multiple causes; and

WHEREAS, treatment of the disease is known as decongestive lymphatic drainage therapy and can be provided on a maintenance basis for many patients suffering from lymphedema, provided that the patient has access to a skillful and knowledgeable therapist, of which Tennessee is woefully bereft; and

WHEREAS, as a result of Thomas Hovatter's death, his widow, Jennifer, is endeavoring to enlighten and inform the members of her community on the diagnosing and treatment of lymphedema, tirelessly endeavoring to organize support groups, providing information, and raising funds for research; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly is anxious to inform the citizens of Tennessee on the importance of lymphedema treatment and research, even while recognizing a brave individual who succumbed to the disease; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE

CONCURRING, that we hereby designate June 18, 2008, as "Thomas Hovatter Lymphedema Awareness Day" in Tennessee and encourage all medical facilities in the State to dedicate more time, energy, and funding to the diagnosing of and treatment of the disease.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we offer our deepest sympathies to the family, friends, and loved ones of Thomas Hovatter.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.